

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

1                   10.    (Currently amended) A vibratable aperture plate comprising:  
2                   a plate body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a plurality of apertures  
3    extending from the top surface to the bottom surface, wherein each aperture is defined by a  
4    tapered portion which tapers inward from the bottom surface toward the top surface and a flared  
5    portion that extends from the top surface toward the bottom surface and that flares away from the  
6    tapered portion, and wherein the flared portion and the tapered portion ~~have the same~~ share an  
7    axis of symmetry such that when a liquid is supplied to the bottom surface and the aperture plate  
8    is vibrated, liquid droplets are ejected through the flared portion, wherein the plate body is  
9    electroformed to produce the apertures, and wherein the tapered portion at an intersection  
10 with the flared portion has a size in the range from about 1 micron to about 10 microns.

1                   11.    (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body is  
2    constructed from materials selected from a group consisting of palladium, palladium nickel and  
3    palladium alloys.

1                   12.    (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body  
2    includes a portion that is dome shaped in geometry.

1                   13.    (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body has a  
2    thickness in the range from about 20 microns to about 70 microns.

1                   14.    (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the apertures have an  
2    exit angle that is in the range from about 41° to about 49°.

Claims 15-30 (canceled).

1                   31.     (Currently amended) An vibratable aperture plate comprising:  
2                   a plate body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a plurality of apertures  
3                   extending from the top surface to the bottom surface, wherein the apertures each include an  
4                   upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the lower portion extends upwardly from the bottom  
5                   surface and is generally concave in geometry, and wherein the upper portion is tapered in a  
6                   direction from the top surface to the bottom surface and intersects at an intersection with the  
7                   lower portion which flares outward such that when a liquid is supplied to the top surface and the  
8                   aperture plate is vibrated, liquid passes through the upper portion and is ejected through the  
9                   lower portion as liquid droplets, wherein the plate body is electroformed to produce the  
10                  apertures, and wherein the upper portion at the intersection has a size in the range from  
11                  about 1 micron to about 10 microns.

1                   32.     (Currently amended) An aperture plate as in claim 31, wherein upper  
2                   portion has an angle of taper that is in the range from about 30° to about 60° at the intersection  
3                   with the lower portion, ~~and a diameter that is in the range from about 1 micron to about 10~~  
4                   ~~microns at the intersection with the lower portion.~~

1                   33.     (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 32, wherein the lower portion has  
2                   a diameter at the lower surface that is in the range from about 20 microns to about 200 microns, a  
3                   height in the range from about 4 microns to about 20 microns.

1                   34.     (Currently amended) An aperture plate as in claim 31, wherein the bottom  
2                   surface is adapted to receive a liquid, and wherein the plate body is vibratable to eject liquid  
3                   droplets from the ~~front~~ top surface.

Claims 35-36 (canceled).

1                   37.     (Amended) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the flared portion  
2                   has a height that is approximately one-third of the thickness of the plate body.

- 1                    38.    (Previously added) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate  
2    body has a thickness of at least about 20 microns.